

Kentucky Environmental Education Council

Spring Meeting April 27, 2005

Berry Hill Mansion

Frankfort, KY

Minutes of the Meeting

Members Present: Horace Brown, Greg Higdon, Kurt Mason, Yvonne Meichtry, Evelyn Morgan

Members not present: Frances Carter, Wade Helm, Jeff Hohman,

Staff: Jane Eller, John LeFevre

Mr. Brown, the Council Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Since there was a quorum, a motion to approve the Winter Council meeting minutes was given by Robin Chandler and was seconded by Kurt Mason. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget - Mr. LeFevre informed the members that as of April 22, 2005 the KEEC had spent at least \$253,689 of allotted funds. This includes \$150,000 from fines and penalties, interest from the Pride fund (distributed to the university EE centers) and grants totaling about \$20,000 for the year. Including expected spring grant monies, the agency had nearly \$67 thousand in operating funds to spend on before June 30, 2005. The agency estimated that expenses would total nearly \$69 thousand by June 30. Of course this does not include carry over funds that we set aside each year for operation and salaries July through September until our \$150,000 distribution is made in October.

Commonwealth Water Education Project (CWEP) – Ms. Eller informed the Council that this project is finally underway. The KET documentary will be shown in late fall and the citizens' workshops are ready to go as well. MOA's have been signed with the universities involved. Ms. Eller wanted to remind members that KEEC has a yearly match of \$4 thousand to CWEP. In addition, Ms. Eller announced that the Kentucky Press Association has graciously funded an intern to work with the KEEC on the CWEP project. The intern will research ways to market the CWEP program. This work includes researching social marketing techniques in order to reach the best target audience and to gain the proper amount of publicity for the program.

Kentucky University Partnership for Environmental Education – Dr. Meichtry informed the Council that KUPÉE center directors had been talking to Earth Force for the Green Rivers Environmental Education Network (GREEN). GREEN is an initiative funded by General Motors and a partnership with KUPÉE would represent the first collaboration between KUPÉE and a corporate funder. In addition, Dr. Meichtry is one of several KUPÉE members involved in an upcoming trip to Austria to learn about sustainable practices.

KUPÉE- EE Endorsement – The Environmental Education endorsement is progressing well with several universities in line for approval by the Education Professional Standards Board.

These include Western, Eastern and Northern Kentucky universities. Murray's endorsement has already been approved. This is a complex process involving the development of courses, etc. and the universities are to be congratulated on providing the endorsement.

Green and Healthy Schools Project – Ms. Eller informed Council members that the newly created Green Schools Task Force is progressing well. At this point in the discussions, the task force is thinking that each school would complete an inventory in several different categories including (for example) energy, water, and health and nutrition.

Core Content Changes: Ms Chandler discussed changes to the core content, which will affect nearly all KEEC programs and publications to one degree or another. Ms. Eller said she has heard the changes are really going to improve the way the core content is used but it will entail realigning all our materials etc.

Project WET – Mr. LeFevre informed Council members that he had accepted the role of Project WET coordinator for the state of Kentucky and will put together a steering committee that will oversee Project WET. The KUPEE partners (with the exception of U of L) have agreed to serve as a dissemination network for Project WET in Kentucky.

PRIDE Fund (HB-174) – There was a discussion of the Pride fund created by HB 174. Ms. Eller thought there would be approximately \$500,000 in that fund this year but that amount would probably drop precipitously next year. She said she had formally asked for one million dollars off the top of the PRIDE fund (in addition to the interest) but had been turned down by Commissioner Lloyd Cress who felt that all the money was needed to clean up abandoned landfills. Greg Higdon made a motion to act on behalf of the Kentucky Environmental Education Council to meet with officials of the Education and Environmental and Public Protection Cabinets, as appropriate, to find out what funding mechanisms are available to implement the Master Plan. Evelyn Morgan seconded the motion and all Council members were in favor

KAEE Membership Development Grant – Ms. Eller informed the Council that monies which had been granted to KAEE by the Council for membership development in 2001 had been designated by KAEE to give to the AWAKE website this spring. She said she was not sure this was an appropriate expenditure of the monies considering its original intent but said it was simply a matter that no one was on the KAEE board who remembered the original intent of the grant. Council members recommended informing and educating existing KAEE members as to why the funds were originally given, to help avoid this problem. Ms. Eller said she would do so and would also insure that any future grants had time limits for expenditure.

Adjourn – Their being no further business, Mr. Brown adjourned the meeting.

Approved
Wm. Horace Brown, Chair

Date

Respectfully Submitted
Jane W. Eller
Executive Director

Date

